

Appl. No. : 09/960,236
Filed : September 20, 2001

REMARKS

Claims 1-33 and 36-52 were pending, and Claims 34 and 35 were canceled prior to the entry of the amendments herein. Claims 1, 7-10, 13, 14, 17, 19, 24, 27, 28, 31, 32, 36, 37-40, 42, 45, 46, and 48 are canceled herein. Claims 2-6, 11, 12, 15, 16, 21-23, 25, 26, 29, 30, 44, 47, and 49-52 are amended herein and new Claims 53-56 are added.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation that Claims 18, 20, 33, 41, and 43 are allowed. Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 2-6, 11, 12, 15, 16, 21-23, 25, 26, 29, 30, 44, 47, and 49-52 are now patentable as they have been amended to depend from, and include all of the limitations of, one of the allowed independent Claims 18, 20, 33, 41, and 43. Furthermore, each of these dependent claims recites additional distinguishing features of particular utility.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-3, 6-9, 13-15, 21-24, 27-28, 31-32 and 51-52 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Emesh et al., U.S. 2002/0108861 in view of Uzoh, U.S. Patent No. 6,066,030 (Uzoh '030). Claims 4-5, 10-12, 17, 19, 36-40, 42, and 44-49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Emesh in view of Uzoh '030 and further in view of Uzoh et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,261,426 (Uzoh '426). Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Emesh in view of Uzoh '030 and further in view of Basol et al., U.S. 2002/0134748. Claim 25 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Emesh in view of Uzoh '030 and further in view of Uzoh et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,612,915 (Uzoh '915). Claims 26 and 29-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Emesh in view of Uzoh '030 and Uzoh '915 and further in view of Basol. Claim 50 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Emesh in view of Uzoh '030 and Uzoh '426 and further in view of Basol.

Claims 1, 7-10, 13, 14, 17, 19, 24, 27, 28, 31, 32, 36, 37-40, 42, 45, 46, and 48 have been canceled. As discussed above, Claims 2-6, 11, 12, 15, 16, 21-23, 25, 26, 29, 30, 44, 47, and 49-52 are now patentable as they have been amended to depend from, and include all of the limitations of, one of the allowed independent Claims 18, 20, 33, 41, and 43.

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New Claims

New Claims 53-56 have been added. Applicants respectfully submit that the new claims are fully supported by the specification as originally filed and that no new matter has been added. The new claims are patentable as they depend from and include all of the limitations of allowed independent Claim 43.

Conclusion


Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are patentably distinguishable over the prior art of record. The cited references, either alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest Applicants' claimed invention.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: Sept. 25, 2006

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